



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

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#### CONTRACT AWARDED FOR DAM TO STOP POLLUTION

A long standing water pollution problem which has taken a heavy toll of salmon, steelhead trout and rainbow trout in the upper Sacramento River Valley is being corrected, Under Secretary of the Interior James K. Carr said today.

The problem originates as drainage water principally from abandoned mines in the Spring Creek area above Redding, California, bringing metal and acid pollutants into Keswick Reservoir and the Sacramento River.

The solution proposed by the Department of the Interior is a 190-foot-high earthfill dam, now under contract, which will permit water regulation to dilute the pollutants, and which at the same time will prevent debris from obstructing the tailrace of the Spring Creek Power Plant, which is now under construction. Both are being built by the Department's Bureau of Reclamation as part of the Central Valley Project.

According to Clarence F. Pautzke, Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, studies made by the Fish and Wildlife Service show that the fall run of chinook salmon in the Sacramento River about the mouth of the Feather River provide an annual catch of 700,000 fish, worth about \$5,900,000 to commercial and sport fishermen. About one-fourth of this fishery, with an annual value of \$1,400,000, comes from the four mile stretch of the river adversely affected by the pollutants.

Historically, high Spring Creek flows frequently coincided with flood flows of the Sacramento River and the toxic water was diluted sufficiently to be tolerable to fish, primarily salmon. However, since flood control on the upper Sacramento was achieved by the construction of the Shasta Dam, the highly polluted Spring Creek flows have entered the Sacramento River at controlled flow periods. As a result, the waters below Keswick Dam, where the migrating fish are concentrated, have been toxic enough at times to kill large numbers of salmon and steelhead.

The Fish and Wildlife Service studies also showed that not only did the mine-waste pollution kill salmon and damage their food supply but that it also ruined an important rainbow trout fishery in the Spring Creek area of the Keswick Reservoir.

Facing the dual problem of pollutants seriously damaging the important fishery and silt and debris threatening the tailrace of the new Spring Creek powerplant, the Bureau of Reclamation designed the Spring Creek debris dam to provide storage space for 2,000 acre-feet of sediment each year for the next 50 years. In addition the dam will provide for the retention of the polluted water so that it can be slowly released and diluted to provide protection to the fish and the organisms upon which they feed.

The contract to build the Spring Creek debris dam has been awarded by the Bureau of Reclamation to Gibbons and Reed of Salt Lake City, lowest of eight bidders. The contract price is \$3,196,387. E-W Construction Company of Creswell, Oregon, was second low with a bid of \$3,212,731; the Guy F. Atkinson Company of San Francisco, California, was third with \$3,328,430.

The Spring Creek Dam embankment will be 1,200 feet long at the crest. The contract includes construction of the dam, concrete spillway and outlet works, and excavation of the powerplant tailrace.

Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy said that the contractor would have 760 days, or two construction seasons, to complete the work. The powerplant tailrace must be complete for use by June 1, 1963, when the first generator of the 150,000-KW Spring Creek Powerplant will be tested, prior to going into operation about July 1, 1963. The powerplant is six miles northwest of Redding and the debris dam will be a short distance upstream. The powerplant and dam are part of the Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project.

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